

17-19 Market Street (Mill Management Housing)
Somersworth
Strafford County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-123

HABS
NH,
9- SOMER,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
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17 - 19 MARKET STREET
(Mill Management Housing)

HABS No. NH-123

Location: 17 - 19 Market Street
Somersworth, Strafford County, New Hampshire

Present Owner: City of Somersworth, New Hampshire

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Present Use: Unoccupied two family house

Intended Use: Multi-family housing, new structure to replicate exterior of present structure.

Date of Demolition: August 1984

Significance: This structure is one of a group of three remaining two family tenements constructed for Mill Management by the Great Falls Manufacturing company. It is part of an overall plan for a factory community. The Great Falls Manufacturing Company constructed Mills, Canals, Roads, Buildings for support industries, worker housing, commercial blocks, and set aside land for churches, schools, and other community uses. Secondly, it has architectural Significance: unlike the two other companion buildings, it was never modernized. Left intact are the two central chimney stacks, fireplaces, doors, moldings, casings, etc. . Thirdly, it is part of an historic streetscape, i.e., the west side of Market Street.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: Between 1823-1826 the Great Falls Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1823 and commenced construction immediately. A recession in 1827 stopped this building boom. Company records list 40 wooden tenements in 1826. several additions were made in the late 19th Century; a one story ell on the south unit and a two story addition on the north unit.
2. Architect: There is no mention of an Architect/Planner in the history of the Great Falls Manufacturing Company. Construction techniques and details are similar to those in other period buildings, indicating the probable use of the many available builder's handbooks of the age.
3. Original and subsequent owners:
South Unit, Tenement #8. References are in the Office of the Registrar of Deeds, Strafford County Court House, Dover, New Hampshire

- 1847 Deed, January 12, 1847, recorded in Volume 201, Page 283.
Great Falls Manufacturing Co. to Thomas Shapleigh, Merchant.
- 1848 Deed, April 8, 1848, recorded in Volume 201, Page 440.
Thomas Shapleigh to George Dearborn, Druggist.
- 1851 Deed, October 17, 1851, recorded in Volume 209, Page 234.
George L. and Lucy A. Dearborn to Lewis Dearborn, Shoemaker.
- 1862 Deed, May 20, 1862, recorded in Volume 232, Page 224.
Lewis L. and Hannah D. Dearborn to Lucy A. Dearborn.
- 1899 Deed, August 14, 1899, recorded in Volume 524, Page 066.
*George Dearborn, Mary H. McIntire, and Sarah E. Wood to Thomas Jones.
- 1944 Deed, November 22, 1944, recorded in Volume 529, Page 342.
Lily M. Coombs, Executrix Estate of **Alice M. Jones to Harold E. Andrews and Marion S. Andrews.
- 1947 Deed, October 9, 1947, recorded in Volume 552, Page 417.
Harold E. and Marion S. Andrews to Harry Lester Varney and Annette Varney.

* Willed to George Dearborn Et Al by Lucy A. Dearborn.

** Willed to Alice M. Jones by Thomas Jones.

- 1969 Deed, August 8, 1969, recorded in Volume 861, Page 273.
Harry Lester Varney to Francis T. Murphy Jr. and Eleanor M. Murphy.
- 1982 Deed, March 12, 1982, recorded in Volume 1077, Page 0084.
Francis T. Murphy Jr. and Eleanor M. Murphy to Somersworth Housing Authority.

Original and Subsequent Owners of North Unit, Tenement #9. References are in the Office of the Registrar of Deeds, Strafford County Court House, Dover, New Hampshire.

Ownership prior to that of Charles S. Fiske is unknown. Tract was part of a larger tract owned by Fiske.

- 1931 Deed, January 27, 1931, recorded in Volume 443, Page 438.
Charles S. Fiske to Frank H. Stillings.
- 1945 Deed, January 5, 1945, recorded in Volume 530, Page 86.
Frank H. Stillings to Harold E. and Marion E. Andrews.

Harold E. and Marion E. Andrews purchased the south unit on October 9, 1947.

B. Historical Context:

- 1823-1826 Constructed by Great Falls Manufacturing Company as housing for mill management.
- 1847 Sold by Great Falls Manufacturing Company to Thomas Shapleigh. This was part of the company's policy of selling its housing and selling lots for private development. Thomas Shapleigh was a merchant and it is possible the basement level which fronted on Market Street was his place of business.
- 1848 Purchased by George Dearborn, a Druggist. It is assumed the basement level was his place of business.
- 1851 Purchased by Lewis Dearborn, a Shoemaker. Again, it is assumed he used the basement level as his place of business.
- 1960's The basement level was used as a printing shop. Quantities of paper remain in the building.

1970's Lester Murphy lived in building and used the basement as a bait shop and office for his housing rental business.

None of the owners are prominent in Somersworth History, although they share surnames with prominent people.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Federal style 2 1/2 story, 5 bay facade 2 family mill housing.
2. Condition of fabric: Overall poor condition due to neglect, weather, and a recent fire. Interior has been partially gutted but with most original woodwork and chimney stacks remaining.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Original structure is 28 FT. by 40 FT. Two 19th Century additions, 19FT. x 15 FT. and 22 FT. x 17 FT.
2. Foundation: 12" brick on granite in front and sides; Granite rubble masonry rear.
3. Walls: Asphalt siding. Original was clapboards. Exterior trim has been removed.
4. Structural system, framing: The frame of the building is braced heavy timber construction consisting of the following:

Sills	10 x 8
Posts	8 x 8
Joists, 1st & 2nd Floor	4 x 8
Joists, Attic	7 x 9
Intermediate Girts	10 x 8
Braces	3 x 5
Joists	3 x 3
Flooring	2 layers 1" pine boards
Sheathing	1" pine boards
Lath	5/8" accordian lath

Large timbers are hand hewn

Small members (4 x 8 and smaller) are up and down sawn.

Framing joints are mortise and tenon.

Brick is locally made water struck laid in lime mortar.

5. Porches, stoops, balconies: The two original front doors and staircase have been removed. A wooden porch and steps were added to the north side and have been removed. Steps and a door were added to the south side.
6. Chimneys: The two original central chimney stacks remain, each has five fireplaces, two with bee hive oven. Chimneys in the two ells have been removed.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doors and windows: exterior doors are not original; windows are 8 x 10 6/6 on 2nd floor and basement and 8 x 12 1/2 on first floor. There is no evidence of shutters.
8. Roof:
 - a. A fire within the last decade destroyed the roof which was replaced with new construction. The pitch matches those of the adjacent building and probably duplicates the original. Roof is covered with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice and eaves were also removed after fire.

C. Description of interior:

1. Floor Plans:
 - a. Basement: Partially gutted. Probably partition separating two units.
 - b. First Floor: Two almost identical units each 20 x 28 with later additions. Front (east) room was parlor, rear room was original kitchen, more recently dining room. Addition was kitchen. Very narrow stair to 2nd floor. Recent stair from south kitchen addition to basement.
 - c. Second Floor: Each unit has a single room on front (east) and two small rooms on rear. North unit has an additional room on 2nd floor of ell.
 - d. Attic: No evidence of any partitions remaining.
2. Stairways: Original stairways very narrow (28"). Original stairs to basement under stairs to 2nd floor removed and replaced by a single stairway.

3. Flooring: Pine boards, varying widths, except linoleum in some rooms in ells.
4. Walls & Ceiling Finish: Plaster on accordion lath made from boards up to 24" wide. Most rooms show remnants of many layers of wall paper.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Typically 2'-6" x 6'-6" four or six panel doors. See details.
 - b. Windows: See details.
6. Decorative Features & Trim: The interior contains large quantities of decorative woodwork. See detail sketches. There is evidence of chainrails in many locations, but none survive.
7. Hardware: Hinges: Cast iron butt, some pintel hinges
Latches: several surviving norfolk latches
Fireplace crane: one fireplace has large iron eyes to receive crane.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. The only modern heating apparatus is the remains of a kerosene space heater in the basement fireplaces where either bricked up and equipped with a stove thimble or a thimble was added to chimneys as required. Historically, heat was provided by fireplaces, then wood and coal stoves.
 - b. Lighting: Electrical system consists of a single pull chain fixture centered in each room. The ells contain additional receptacles.
 - c. Plumbing: Each unit had hot and cold running water and a full bathroom. The building is connected to municipal water and sewer.

D. Site:

1. Setting & Orientation: The building fronts are parallel to Market Street, 30° W of S. The Elevation difference between front and back is +8FT.. The rear of the lot is terraced with a series of concrete and stone walls.

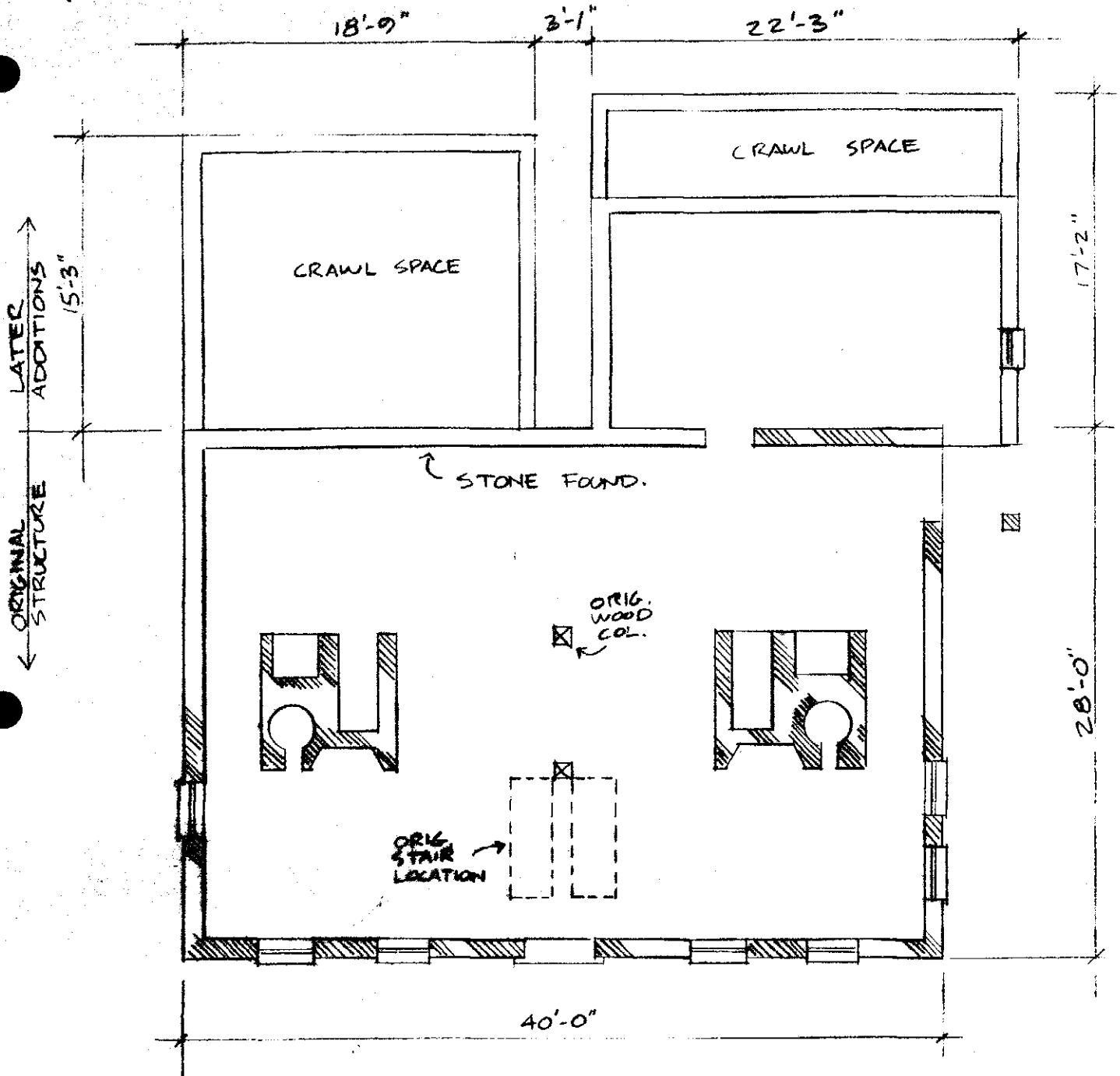
2. Little remains of any landscape design. The lot is overgrown with weeds and trees.
3. Outbuildings: No evidence.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

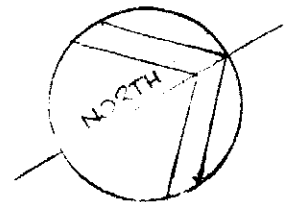
- A. Original Architectural Drawings: None known
- B. Early Views: None
- C. Interviews: None
- D. Bibliography:
 1. Unpublished sources:
 - a. The Corporation James B. Malloy
(Thesis, Dartmouth, 1943)
 - b. Somersworth: Market Street Housing
Richard M. Monahan, Jr. AIA
(Feasibility Study)
 - c. Cultural Resources Inventory
Downtown Somersworth
City of Somersworth 1982
 2. Published Sources: None
- E. Likely Sources not yet Investigated: Bibliography of cultural resources inventory.
- F. Supplemental Material: Measured Drawings & Details by:
Magnus McLetchie, Architect
J. H. Downing & Co., Architect
June 19 - July 23, 1984

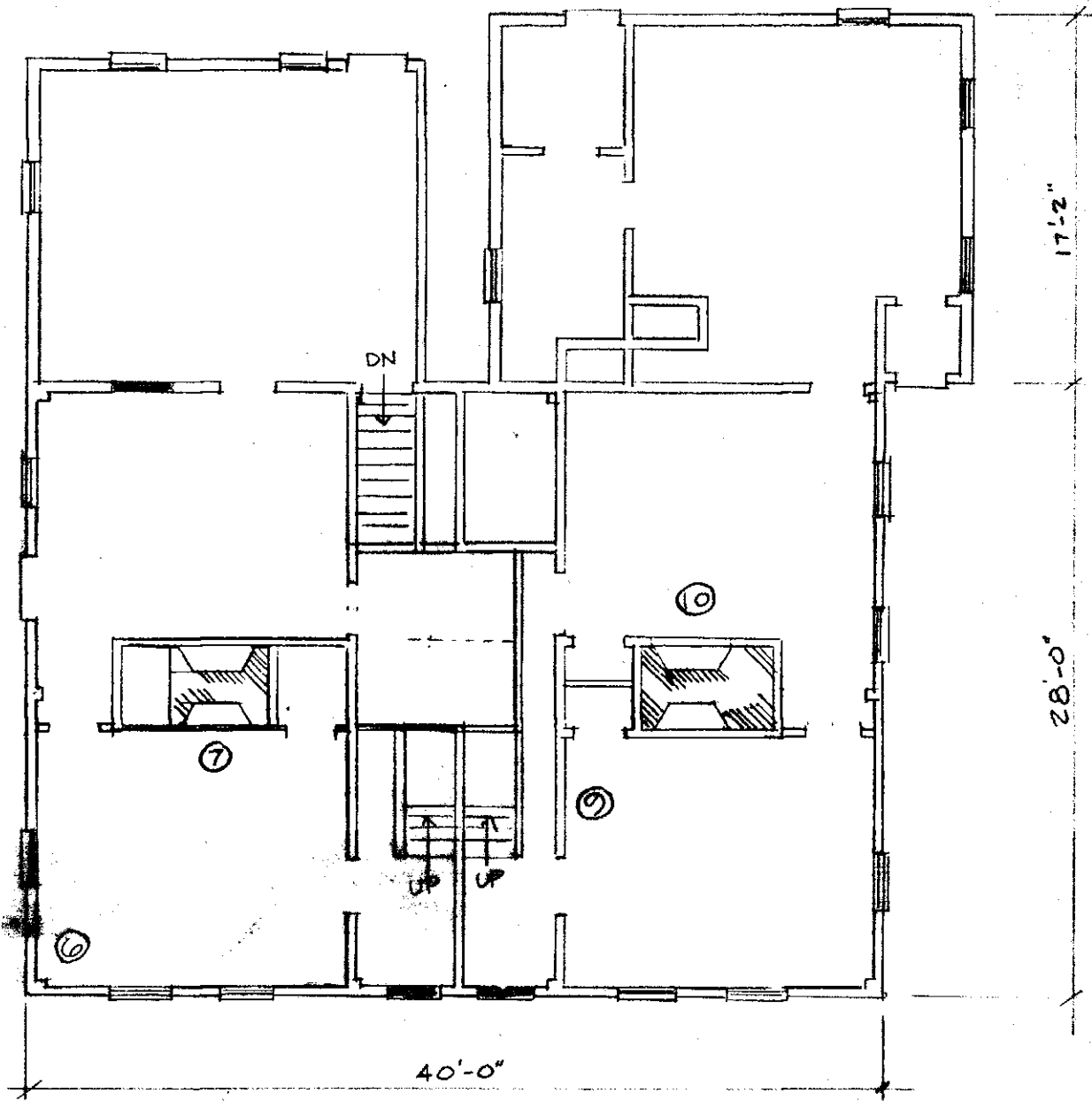
Project Information:

17-19 Market Street will be demolished as part of the Downtown Hills Community Development Project by the Somersworth Housing Authority. Mitigative documentation prepared by John Downing, June 19-July 23, 1984.

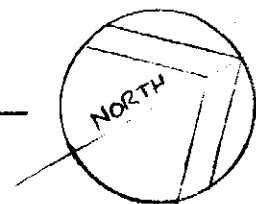


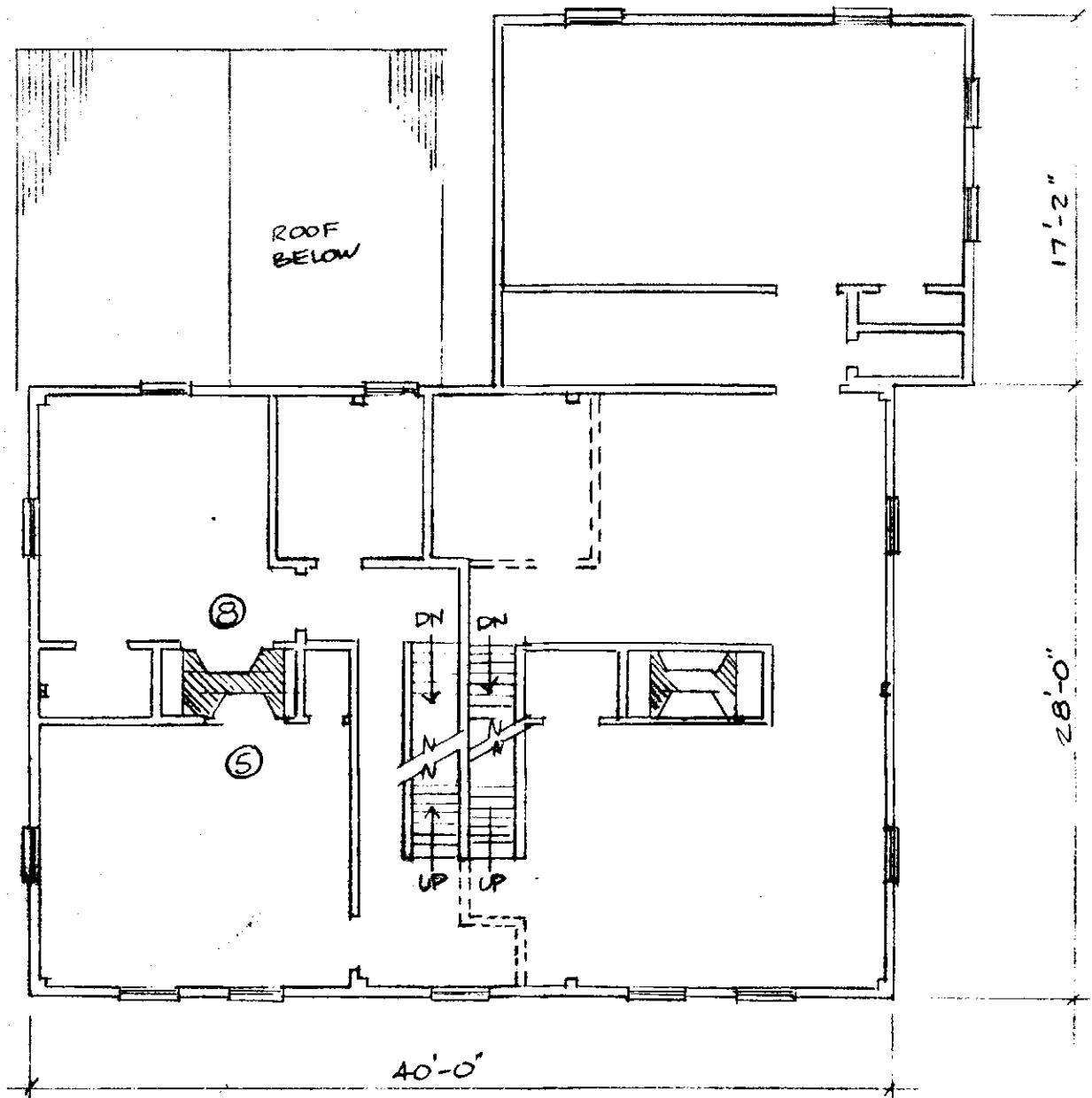
BASEMENT PLAN



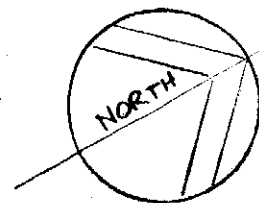


FIRST FLOOR PLAN





SECOND FLOOR PLAN



3'0" x 3'0" 5 FIVE CHIMNEYS

7/12 PITCH ROOF
(ORIGINAL PITCH?)

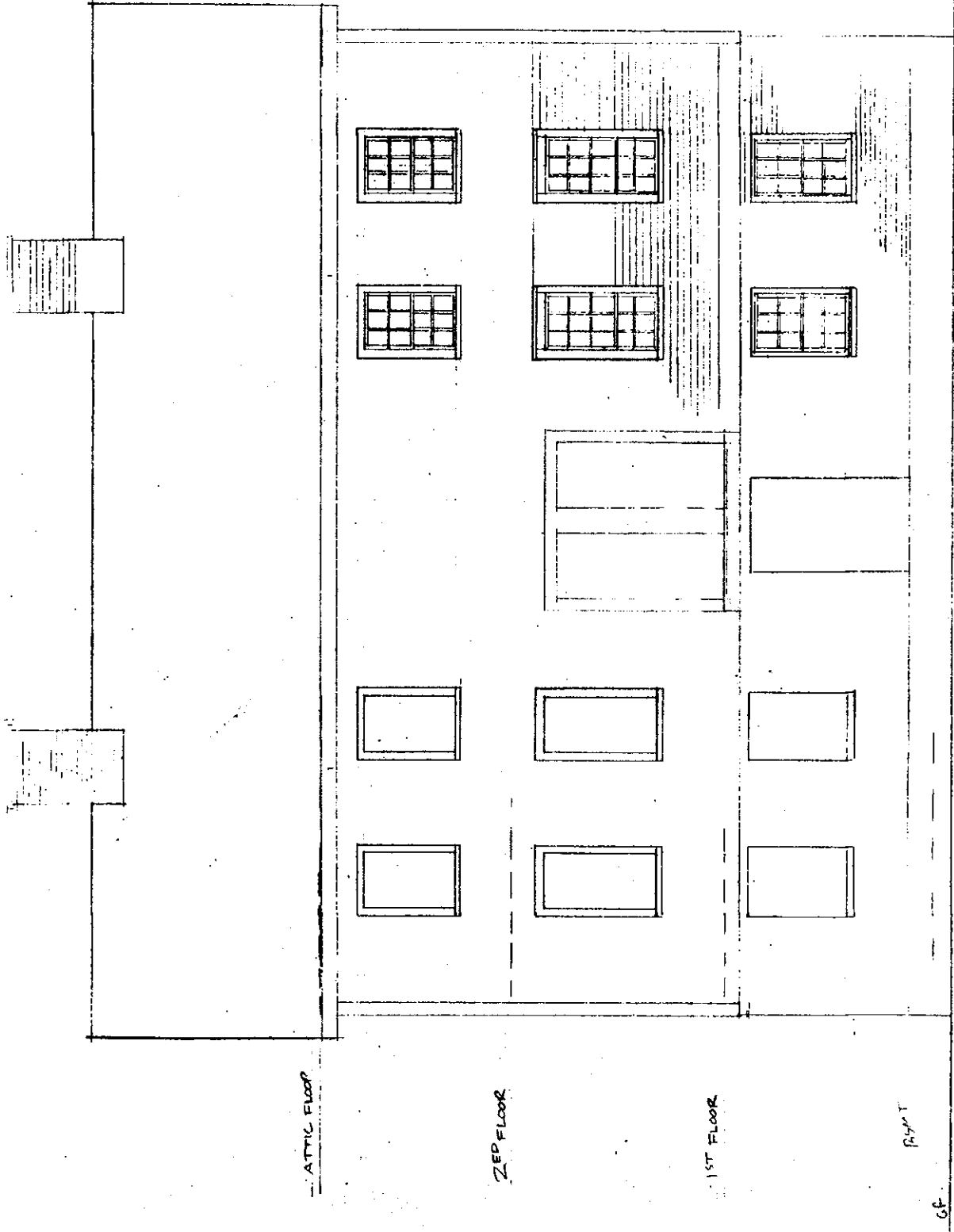
~~8'X10' 0/6 SASH~~

8'X10' 0/6 SASH

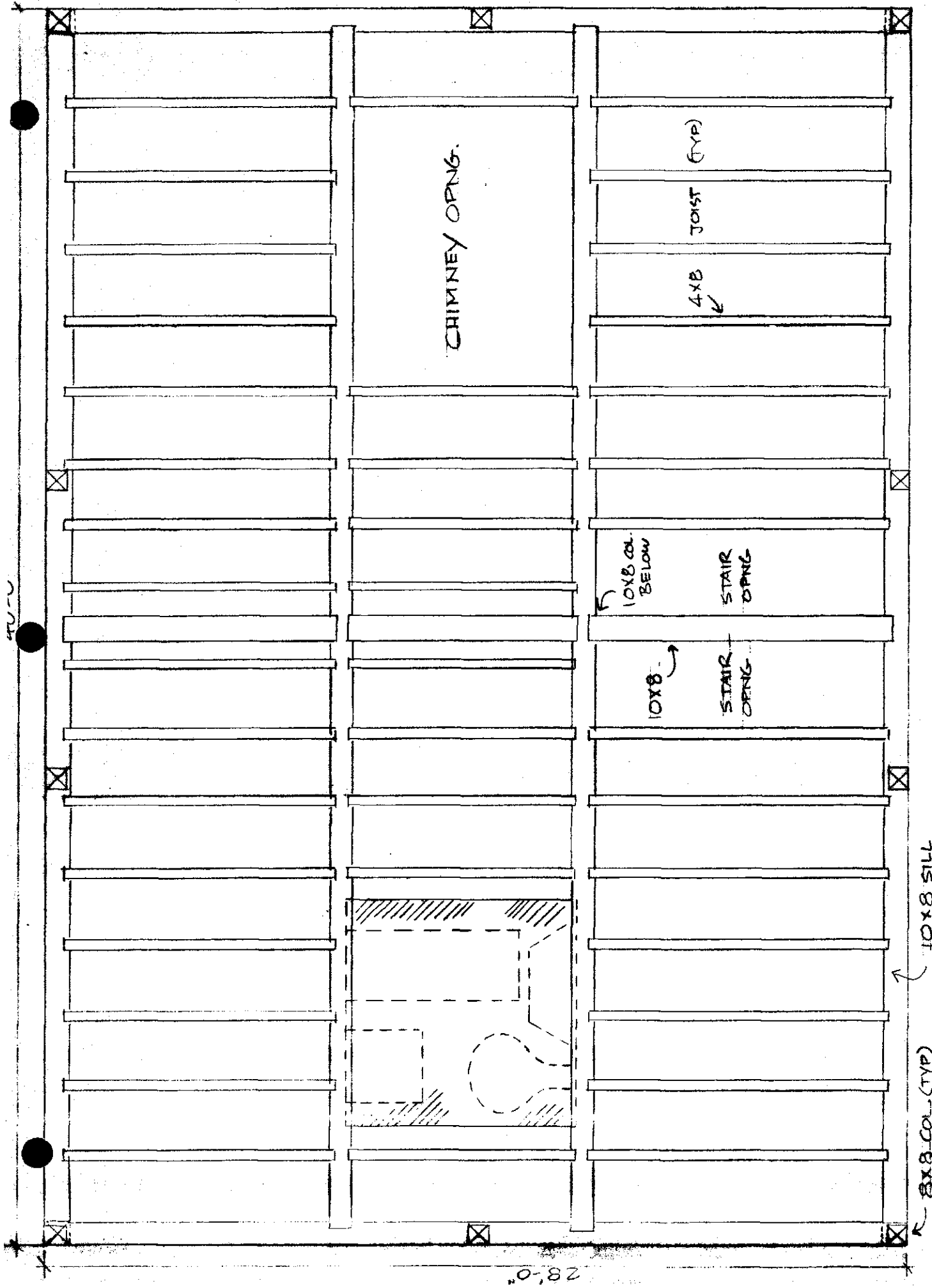
PINE CLAPBOARDS

8'X10' 0/6 SASH
12" BRICK FOUNDATION

GRANITE FOUNDATION



FRONT ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR FRAMING PLAN 2ND FL. SIMILAR

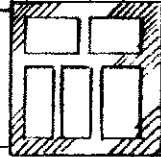
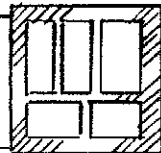
40'-0"

8x8
GIRT

7x8
JOISTS
3'-4" o.c.

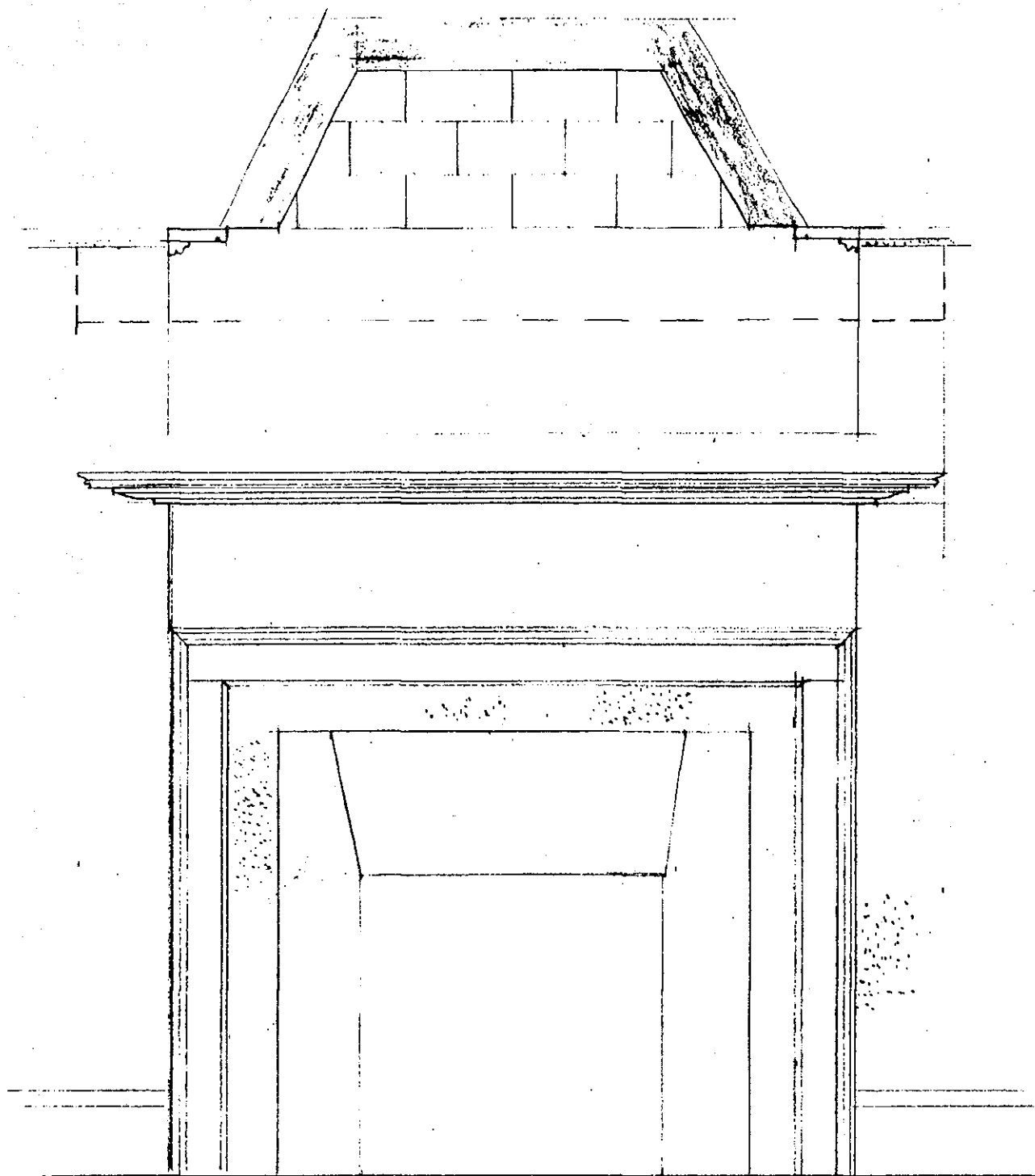
STAIR
OPNG

STAIR
OPNG



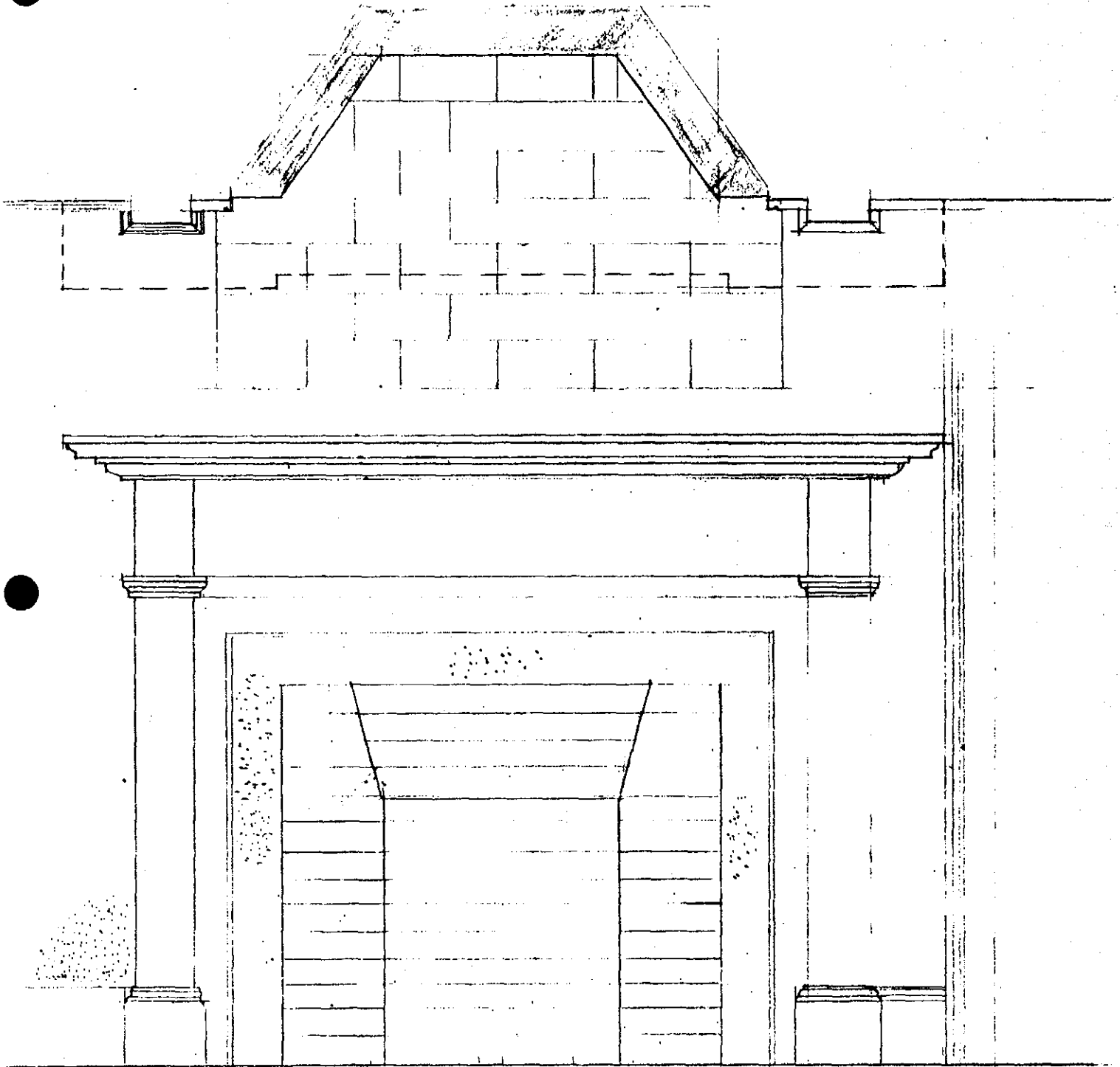
0'-8 1/2"

ATTIC FLOOR FRAMING PLAN



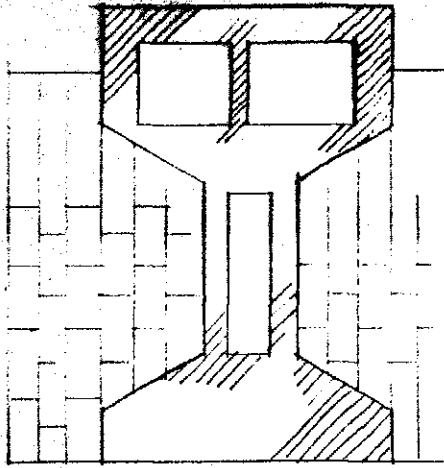
FIREPLACE, BACK ROOM

1"=1'-0"

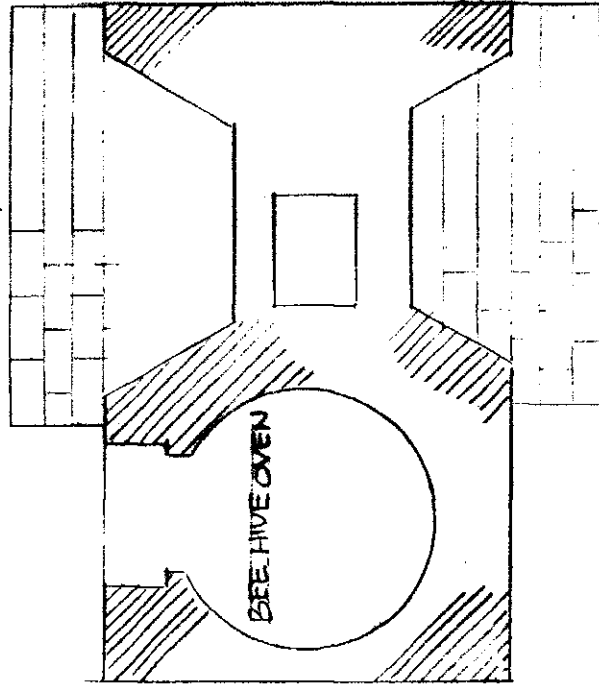


FIREPLACE, FRONT ROOM

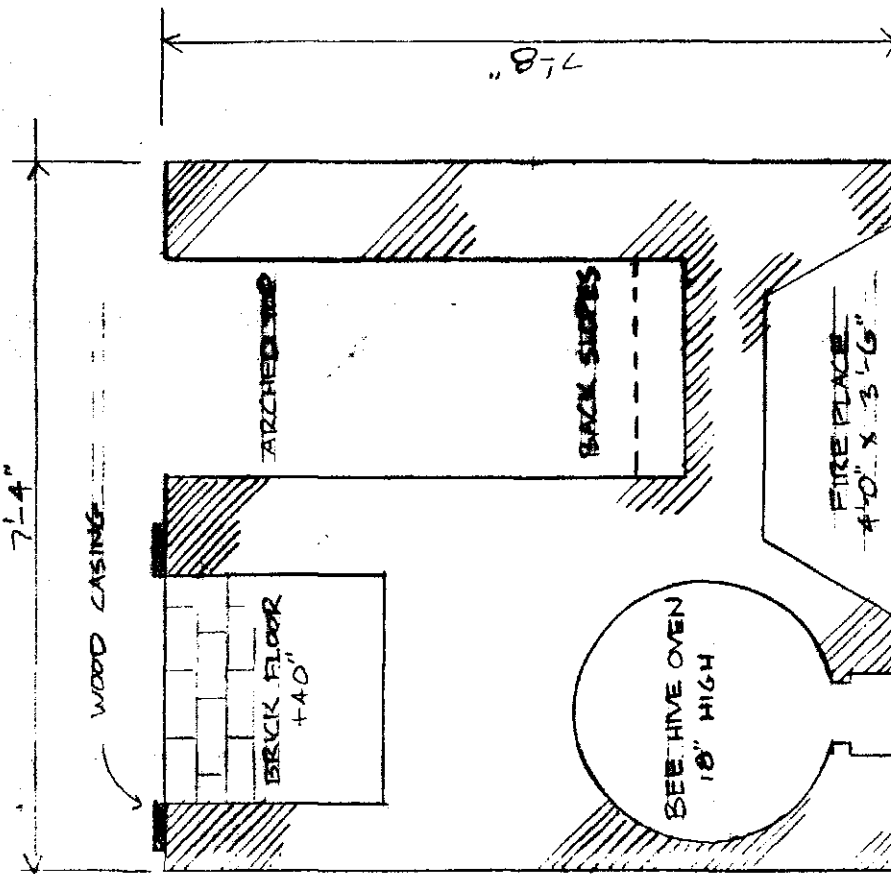
1" = 1'-0"



CHIMNEY @ SECOND FLOOR

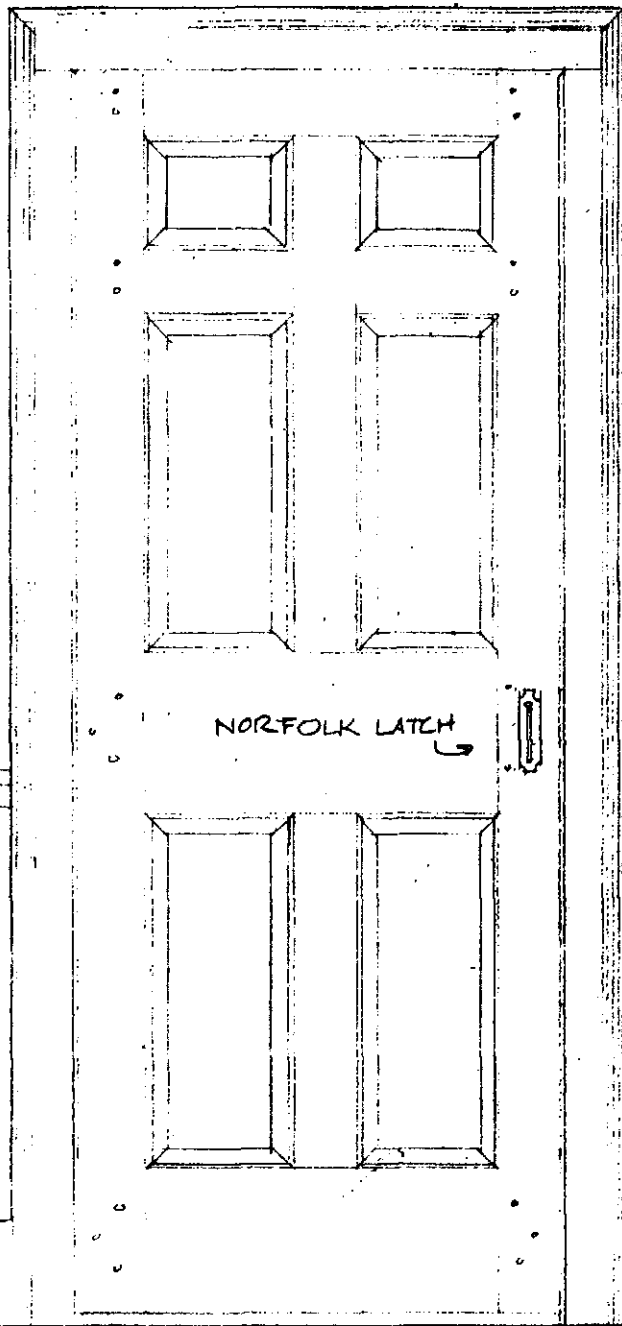


CHIMNEY @ FIRST FLOOR

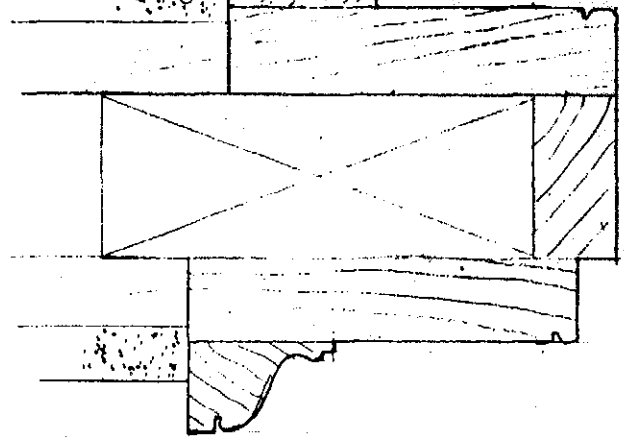


CHIMNEY @ BASEMENT

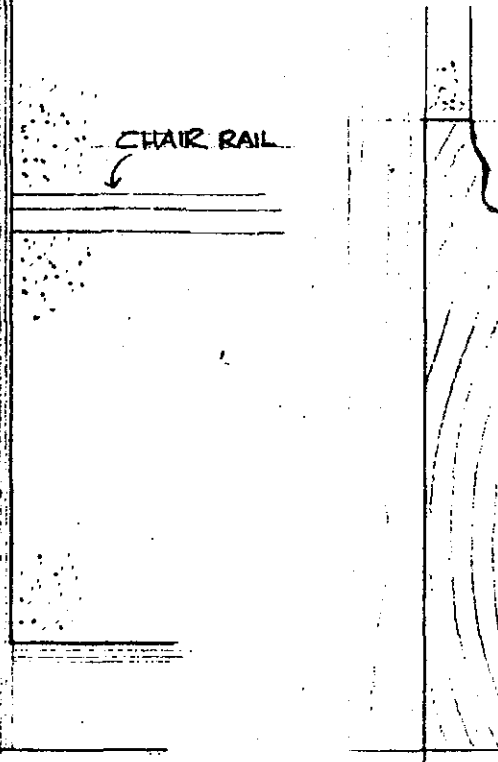
CHIMNEY PLANS



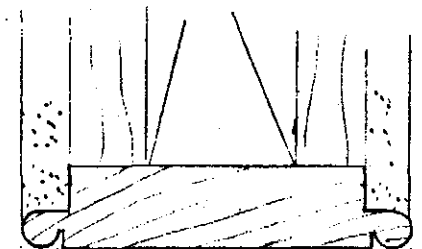
INTERIOR DOOR
1"=1'-0"



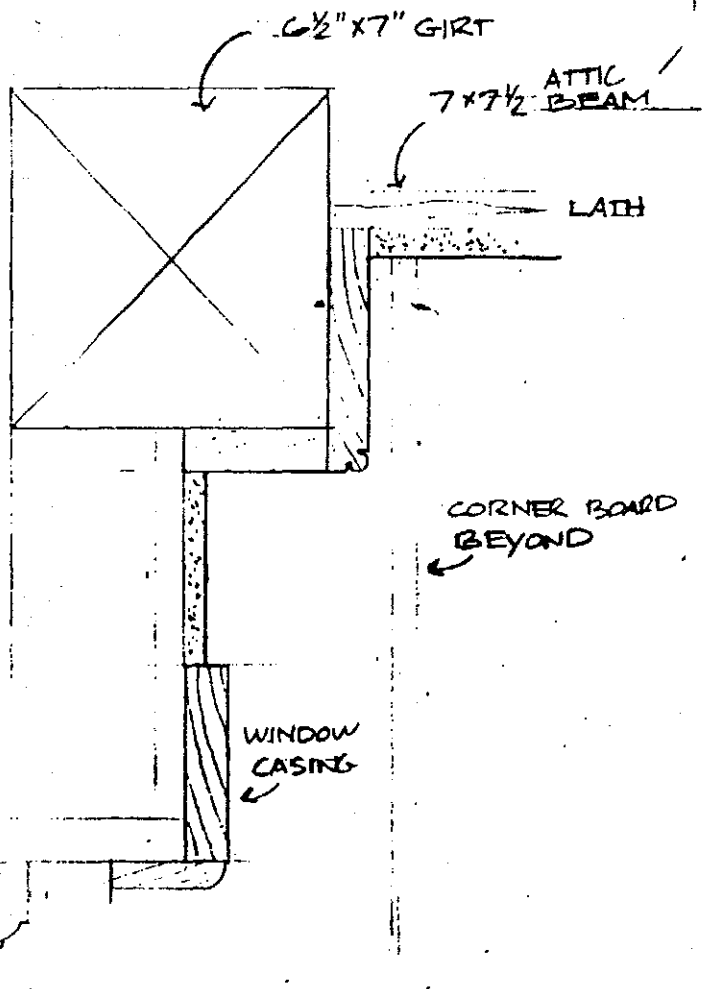
SEC. THRU JAMB
6"=1'-0"



SEC THRU BASE B'D
6"=1'-0"

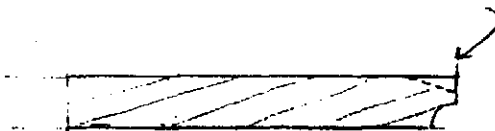


SEC THRU END CAP
6"=1'-0"



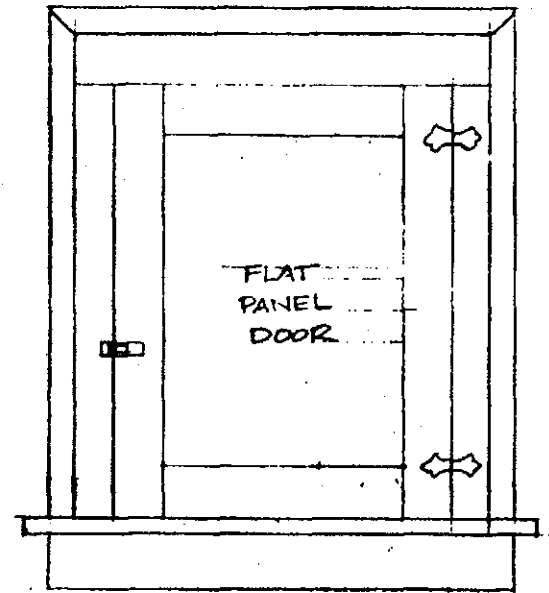
SEC THRU FRONT GIRT
3" x 1'-0"

CHAMFERED 5" FROM END

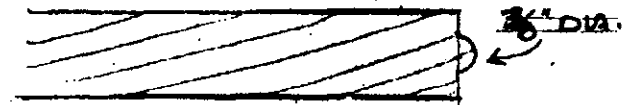


SEC THRU STOOL CAP
6" x 1'-0"

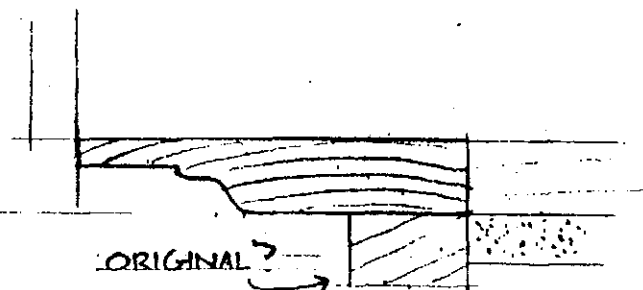
16 1/2" DEEP 2 SHELVES



CUPBOARD ELEV.
7" x 1'-0"



SEC THRU SHELF
6" x 1'-0"



SEC THRU WINDOW CASING
6" x 1'-0"